



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

July 17, 1998

S.J. Res. 44

A joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States to protect the rights of crime victims

As reported by the Senate Committee on the Judiciary on July 7, 1998

S.J. Res. 44 would propose amending the Constitution to protect the rights of crime victims. This proposed amendment would provide certain rights to all victims of crimes of violence, including the right to be heard at any proceeding for sentencing or conditional release from custody. The legislatures of three-fourths of the states would be required to ratify the proposed amendment within seven years for the amendment to become effective.

By itself, this resolution would have no impact on the federal budget. If the proposed amendment to the Constitution is approved by the states, then any future federal cases involving crimes of violence and the new constitutional rights could impose additional costs on the federal courts and the federal prison system to the extent that such cases are pursued and prosecuted. However, CBO does not expect any resulting costs to be significant. Because enactment of S.J. Res. 44 would not affect direct spending or receipts, pay-as-you-go procedures would not apply.

S.J. Res. 44 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments. No state would be required to take action on the resolution.

The CBO staff contacts for this estimate are Mark Grabowicz (for federal costs) and Lisa Cash Driskill (for the state and local impact). This estimate was approved by Paul N. Van de Water, Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.